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## Winter 2014 Edition

Megan Maxwell, Editor

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# Longleaf



## BASEBALL FEVER STRIKES!

### Fayetteville to Honor 100th Anniversary of Babe Ruth's First Homerun as a Pro March 7-8, 2014



**RUTH IN FAYETTEVILLE**—Here is the first picture ever made of Babe Ruth as a professional ballplayer. It was taken in Fayetteville, the day the great "Bambino" launched his career as a member of the Baltimore Orioles, by hitting a home run.

—Baltimore American Photographer, 1914.

George Herman Ruth Jr., known as "The Sultan of Swat," "The Colossus of Clout," "The Great Bambino," or simply "The Babe," is considered by many the greatest baseball player who ever lived. In an era absent of steroids and multi-million dollar contracts, Babe Ruth dominated as a power hitter and became the first sports celebrity whose fame transcended baseball. However, few people today know that Ruth hit his first professional home run and received his famous moniker in Fayetteville while playing an exhibition game with the Baltimore Orioles.

Ruth began playing baseball as a young man for St. Mary's Industrial School in his native Baltimore. When Ruth was nineteen, Jack Dunn, manager of the Baltimore Orioles, spotted him and signed the prospect to his first professional contract at \$100 a month. A few weeks later, the Orioles headed to Fayetteville enroute to Florida for spring training.

While in Fayetteville, it came to the attention of teammates that Dunn had legally adopted George H. Ruth to keep him with the team. Ruth's parents

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## 100th Anniversary of Babe Ruth's Homerun

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

forced Dunn to become Ruth's official guardian in return for allowing their son to depart Jesuit-sponsored St. Mary's two years earlier than was standard practice. This development, combined with Ruth's incessant playing on the elevators at the Lafayette Hotel in Fayetteville resulted in the older players teasing him as "Dunn's baby," which was later shortened to "Baby" and "Babe."

A few days after their arrival in March 1914, team members walked a mile from the hotel to practice at the old Cape Fear Fair Ground. Although not all the players had reported yet, the Orioles who were present divided into two teams, the Buzzards and the Sparrows, for an inter-squad game. They were so short of players that several local reporters joined in the game.

In the last inning, Ruth hit a long home run to right field. Some who were present said it landed in a cornfield beyond the fence. Others claimed that it had soared past the field and landed in Mallet's Mill Pond. Rodger H. Pippen, a reporter playing center field, claimed that he measured the home run's distance at 350 feet. Ruth described the home run saying, "I hit it as I hit all the others, by taking a good gander at the pitch as it came up to the plate, twisting my body into a backswing and then hitting it as hard I as I could swing." Maurice Fleishman, who at age eleven served as batboy that day, never forgot the moment and later led the effort to commemorate the event with a historical marker.

The Orioles left Fayetteville soon afterwards. In his autobiography, Ruth said of the city, "I got to some bigger places than Fayetteville after that, but darn few as exciting." Ruth spent only five months with the team before being traded to the Boston Red Sox. After five years in Boston, he became a New York Yankee where he spent the greatest years of his career from 1920 to 1934. He retired in 1935 after one year with the Boston Braves.

A year after his retirement Ruth became one of the first players elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. He died on August 16, 1948, from cancer at

the age of fifty-three. At his death the New York Times eulogized Ruth as, "a figure unprecedented in American life. A born showman off the field and a marvelous performer on it, he had an amazing flair for doing the spectacular at the most dramatic moment." Yankee Stadium is often referred to as "The House that Ruth Built."

### References:

Babe Ruth, *The Babe Ruth Story* (1948)

Jim L. Sumner, "Babe Ruth's North Carolina Spring: The Tar Heel Perspective," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 86 (Spring 1991): 51-54

Baltimore American, September 3, 1950

(Raleigh) News & Observer, April 16, 1992

Charlotte Observer, July 8, 2000

Essay Credit: The NC Office of Archives and History

## FAYETTEVILLE BASEBALL FEVER

*March 7-8, 2014*

**March 7, 2:00 pm:** Re-dedication Ceremony for the NC Historical Marker honoring Ruth's first pro home-run. Special guests and dignitaries to be announced. Site of marker, Gillespie Street, Fayetteville (In front of DOT offices, 558 Gillespie St.).

**March 7, 10:00 am:** Sports of the Sandhills exhibit opens with a display on baseball. The exhibit will feature photographs and memorabilia on regional baseball history. Did you know that Jim Thorpe played for the Fayetteville Highlanders in 1910? Find out more about this and other interesting facts in the exhibit.

**March 8, 1:00 pm:** Attend a Vintage Base Ball game at Arnette Park. Vintage Base Ball is baseball played by the rules and customs of the 19th century. This game will follow the 1864 rules as adopted by the National Association of Base-ball Players. No gloves here folks! For more information about Vintage Base Ball visit the Vintage Base Ball Association's website at [vbba.org](http://vbba.org). Arnette Park is located at 2165 Wilmington Hwy, Fayetteville, NC 28306.





## Annual Civil War Quiz Bowl Brings Out History Buffs January 23 at Methodist University

### TEST YOUR CIVIL WAR KNOWLEDGE WITH THESE SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- 1) Identify the photo: Her husband may be more famous, but we want you to identify her. Who is she?



- 2) True or False: In French, the word “Shiloh” means “place of peace.”
- 3) Multiple Choice: It is often said that the war began in my front yard and ended in my front parlor when Lee surrendered to Grant. Who am I?
- a. John Brown
  - b. Dred Scott
  - c. Wilmer McLean

Answers bottom of page 5

Test your knowledge at the annual Civil War Quiz Bowl on Thursday, January 23 at 6:30 p.m. in Yarrowborough Auditorium in Clark Hall at Methodist University. The event is sponsored by the Museum of the Cape Fear and Methodist University.

Contestants will test their knowledge of trivia, tactics and history as host Jim Greathouse assails them with questions covering all aspects of the War Between the States. The questions are a combination of multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank, and the most challenging will be straight forward question and answer. From the most avid Civil War buff to those who want to see how much they remember from history class, all will be challenged and entertained.

The contest is open to contestants of all ages with prizes awarded for both the adult and student (16 and younger) winners. Register in advance by calling the Museum of the Cape Fear or register at the door. Registration will be accepted until 20 spaces are filled.

The Civil War Quiz Bowl is free to attend and is open to the public, with plenty of room for friends, family and spectators. For more information and to register, contact Leisa Greathouse at 910-486-1330, or email [leisa.greathouse@ncdcr.gov](mailto:leisa.greathouse@ncdcr.gov).

Methodist University is an independent four-year institution of higher education with over 2,400 students from 41 states and 53 countries. Methodist University offers over 80 majors and concentrations, 100 clubs and organizations, four master's degree programs, and 20 NCAA III intercollegiate sports. To learn more about Methodist University, please visit [methodist.edu](http://methodist.edu) or [facebook.com/MethodistUniversity](https://facebook.com/MethodistUniversity).



# Volunteer Corner

BY LEISA GREATHOUSE

On January 4, we held a Volunteer Orientation Day (VOD). We were pleased that seven people attended. VOD is a day to learn about the museum's volunteer program without the pressure of making a commitment until you know what's involved, determine if it fits into your schedule of discretionary time, and decide if there are opportunities in your area of interest.

Join the museum in saying "Welcome!" to Tim Hair, Quo-Votis Covington, Cole Baughman, Jeff Raynor, Laurie Luedeke, and a welcome back to Martha Benfield. Thank you all for your dedication and support of the museum.

If you are a long-time subscriber to The Longleaf, then you probably know we have a Volunteer Holiday Reception every December. In 2013, it was held on December 5 with a room full of dedicated and selfless people who give so much of their time and talent all year long. The museum provides the ham and turkey, and everyone who attends brings a covered dish. There are a lot of good cooks among the volunteer staff. Here's just a sampling: Paul's walnut and cranberry salad, Jim's artichoke casserole, Mara's Mexican dish, and Louise's deviled eggs. Yum!! This year's theme was "Twas' the Night Before Christmas" and volunteers dined by candlelight. Thank you to our Office Manager Karen Wallace and Gift Shop Manager Betty Ray for all of your hard work in making this evening so special for the volunteers! Enjoy these photos from the evening's event.



**Top Left:** Volunteer Carol Scheib poses with her raffle prize, a delicious fruit basket!

**Top Right:** Volunteers enjoying their Christmas dinner.

**Bottom Right:** Volunteer Jauneza Vivian invites everyone to attend book club.

## Thank You to Our 2013 Donors & Sponsors

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## Join the MCFHC Foundation!

Your tax deductible donation enables us to continue to provide free cultural and educational programs, events, and exhibits!

### Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



#### Membership

- ☐ Individual \$25
- ☐ Family/Patron \$100
- ☐ Benefactor \$500
- ☐ Sustainer \$1,000

#### Corporate Levels:

- ☐ Museum \$500
- ☐ Ghost Tower \$1,000
- ☐ Poe House \$2,500
- ☐ Arsenal Park \$5,000

*\*If you would like to make a contribution, please write in the amount here. \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

*Mail your tax-deductible check, payable to MCFHC, Inc., to Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 53784, Fayetteville, NC 28305.*





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Visit us on the web at:

[museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov](http://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov)

#### Museum Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10-5

Sunday 1-5

#### 1897 Poe House Tours

Tues-Fri 11:00, 1:00, 3:00

Saturday 10-5 on the hour

Sunday 1-5 on the hour

### **Museum Staff**

David Reid  
Administrator

Leisa Greathouse  
Curator of Education

Megan Maxwell  
1897 Poe House  
Education Coordinator

Karen Wallace  
Administrative  
Assistant

Jim Frederickson  
Carpenter

Weekend Staff  
Louise White  
Ruth Aldridge  
Damon Routzhan

And more than 50  
volunteers



The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex consists of a NC southeast regional history museum, the 1897 Poe House, and Arsenal Park. Two floors of exhibits present the rich history of southeastern North Carolina, from the Paleo-Indian period to the first decades of the 1900s in the Museum of the Cape Fear. The fully restored and furnished 1897 Poe House, home of E.A. Poe, a Fayetteville brick maker, offers a glimpse of early twentieth-century life and the changes that defined this era. Finally, Arsenal Park marks the site commissioned in 1838 by the federal government to manufacture and store arms. The arsenal was used by the Confederacy during the Civil War, and it was destroyed by Union troops under the command of General William T. Sherman in March of 1865. Admission to the Museum Complex is free.

## Upcoming Events

### **January 23, 2014**

**13th Annual Civil War Quiz Bowl**  
**6:30 pm**

**Yarborough Auditorium at  
Methodist University**  
See page 3 for details.

### **February 1, 2014**

**Dancing Stories with  
April C. Turner**  
**2:00 pm**

**Museum of the Cape Fear**

Celebrate Black History Month with dancer/singer April C. Turner. Turner will lead Dancing Stories, an exploration of African folklore that demonstrates ways that African stories can bring a community together. At the end of the presentation, audience members are invited to participate in playing music together as a community. The program is a well-rounded cultural experience focusing on the strength of art to inspire, unite and educate. FREE!

### **February 27, 2014**

**Black Valor: African-American  
Sailors in the Civil War**  
**7:00 pm**

**Museum of the Cape Fear**

This lecture by Professor Charles Anderson will discuss the role that African-Americans played in the Union Navy and

the Medal of Honor recipients of the Civil War. FREE!

### **March 7-8, 2014**

**Fayetteville Baseball Fever!**

**March 7, 2:00 pm:** Re-dedication Ceremony for the NC Historical Marker honoring the 100th anniversary of Babe Ruth's first professional homerun. Location: Gillespie Street in front of the DOT offices.

**March 8, 1:00 pm:** Vintage Baseball game and activities at Arnette Park. FREE! See page 2 for details!

### **March 7, 2014**

**Sports of the Sandhills  
Exhibit Opens**

Focusing on baseball in the spring, this exhibit will shift focus to regional golf history in time for the U.S. Open in Pinehurst in June. Visit our web-site and our Facebook page for more information as these exhibits develop. FREE!

### **May 31, 2014**

**Civil War Living History Event**  
**11:00-4:00 pm**  
**Arsenal Park**

This living history event will feature reenactors, firing demonstrations, and more! FREE!

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex is part of the NC Department of Cultural Resources/Division of State History Museums.